

SENATE RESOLUTION 128

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Rick Courtner for his quick thinking and heroic actions.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure the safety of their fellow citizens, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond their obligations; and

WHEREAS, Rick Courtner of Mountain Electric Cooperative is one such heroic individual who acted with courage and gallantry in a time of crisis, and he deserves proper recognition for his noble actions; and

WHEREAS, during heavy storming and flash floods, Cathy Souder's truck was struck by a falling tree and thrown over a guard rail on State Route 91 and into the flooded Laurel Creek; Ms. Souder's vehicle floated down the creek before becoming lodged against a rock; and

WHEREAS, emergency response teams were unable to reach Ms. Souder's truck in the middle of the creek and recruited the help of the men and women of Mountain Electric Cooperative; Mollie Ingle was already on the scene and radioed for a nearby crew of workers in a bucket truck to assist the first responders in saving the stranded woman; and

WHEREAS, Rick Courtner, Dakota Tester, Charlie Grindstaff, and Cody Bryant immediately answered the call for help, braving dangerous weather conditions in a bucket truck to get to the stranded motorist; and

WHEREAS, parking the truck on the side of the flooded creek, the crew extended the arm of the bucket truck as far as it would go, barely reaching Ms. Souder's truck; Mr. Bryant and Mr. Courtner finally freed the woman from the truck, and she came out of the crisis sustaining only minor cuts and bruises; and

WHEREAS, the courage and selflessness of Rick Courtner surely saved a woman's life, and his altruistic actions serve as an example of the sort of bravery in the face of adversity to which we should all aspire; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Courtner acted with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service to the citizens of his community can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Rick Courtner of Johnson County for his outstanding bravery and selflessness and offer our gratitude for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.